Export of Alumina by NALCO

*138. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that NALCO is exporting Alumina through MMTC losing 50 dollars per ton on an average on the basis of the existing international price and that the estimated loss of 15 million dollars on the commodity is anticipated in the current year alone;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof stating the reasons for such a huge loss; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to minimise the loss?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI): (a) to (c) MMTC signed a Memorandum of Undestanding (MOU) in consultation with National Aluminium Company (NALCO) with M|s. Hydro Trading SA Lausanne Switzerland on 20-3-1987 for export of 100,000 tonnes of Alumina at a minimum price of US $ 126 PMT FOB and 10.5 per cent on average cash London Metal Exchange (LME) price of aluminium for the month prior to the month of shipment. The MOU provided for detailed contract to be finalised by April, 1987. This being the first contract for export of alumina through MMTC, it took some time to finalise the terms of the contract, draft of which could be forwarded by MMTC to M|s. Hydro Trading in May, 1987. The foreign buyers raised some objections. After discussion between NALCO, MMTC and Hydro Trading, a contract was finalised, in November, 1987 stipulating export of 100,000 tonnes of alumina at a price of US $ 160 PMT FOB. The contract was finalised at ruling international market price. The arrangement was made by these organisations on over all commercial considerations.

Signing of memorandum of understanding with the Swiss Authorities

*139. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had initiated steps to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Swiss authorities for assistance in specific cases of Indians having accounts in Swiss banks with funds obtained illegally, if so, by when;

(b) whether it is a fact that a six member team of officials of various Ministries visited Switzerland in this regard and submitted its report in October last;

(c) what further communications have taken place during these months with the Swiss Government; and

(d) what sort of agreement|understanding is going to be signed between the two countries and by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d) A team comprising representatives of Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of External Affairs, Central Bureau of investigation and the Reserve Bank of India visited Berne (Switzerland) in September, 1987, to explore the possibilities of entering into an arrangement for mutual assistance in criminal matters between the Governments of India and Switzerland. Based on the recommendations of the team, Government is exploring the feasibility of exchange of letters between the two Governments for mutual asssistance in criminal matters.

Investment in canshare and canstock

*140. SHRI K. MOHANAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given their concurrence in favour of Non-resident Indians' investment in Canshare and Canstock; and